

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the Decision on Appeal mailed on November 10, 2009, (the "Decision"). Reconsideration of the application in the light of the above Amendments and following remarks is respectfully submitted.

CLAIM STATUS

By the preceding Amendment, claims 9, 12-13, 15, and 17-36 have been canceled. Thus only claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 16, and 37-44 are currently pending.

DECISION ON APPEAL

In the November 11, 2009 decision of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences ("Board"), the Board affirmed the Examiner's rejection of claims 9, 12-13, 15, and 17-36. By this Amendment Applicants have cancelled all of the claims where the rejection was affirmed leaving only claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 16, and 37-44 where the Board reversed the Examiner's rejection.

CONCLUSION

Having cancelled each of the claims where the Board affirmed the Examiner's rejection, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which could place this application in better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 08-2025 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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